



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note: A copy of today's plea agreement will be available
to download from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MOUNTAIN GROVE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN PLOT TO MURDER EX-HUSBAND

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mountain Grove, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to charges stemming from a murder-for-hire scheme.

Patricia S. Thyer, 56, of Mountain Grove, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to using a facility of interstate commerce – the telephone – in a murder-for-hire scheme and to using a firearm in a crime of violence.

Patricia and David Thyer were married July 17, 1988, in Texas. Although divorced in 1999, they continued living together until David Thyer moved to Kansas in January 2004. After moving, Graves said, he frequently traveled to Mountain Grove from Kansas on weekends and stayed with **Patricia Thyer**.

According to Graves, **Patricia Thyer** met with a man who, unknown to her, was actually an undercover law enforcement officer on June 28, 2004, to discuss hiring him to murder her ex-husband. In subsequent meetings, Graves said, **Patricia Thyer** suggested the murder could be made to look like an automobile accident, or the undercover officer could beat her up to make it look like she shot her ex-husband in self-defense.

Patricia Thyer later took the undercover officer to her home, where she provided him with a loaded Colt .38-caliber revolver and showed him where David Thyer would be sleeping. She agreed to leave the back door open so that the undercover officer could enter the house while they were sleeping, Graves said, in order to make the murder look like a robbery.

A final meeting between **Patricia Thyer** and the undercover officer occurred on the morning of July 16, 2004, the day David Thyer was expected to arrive for a weekend visit. At this meeting, Graves said, **Patricia Thyer** gave the undercover officer \$1,000 and promised another \$1,000 after David Thyer was murdered. **Patricia Thyer** had earlier agreed to give the undercover officer a collection of firearms belonging to her ex-husband, in addition to the cash payment. She had also paid him \$400 at two earlier meetings.

Patricia Thyer was arrested at the conclusion of that final meeting in the Wal-Mart parking lot, Graves said, and gave law enforcement officers consent to search a trailer on her property in which numerous firearms were located.

When David Thyer arrived, he identified several documents – including a forged codicil to his will which has favorable terms for the defendant, several fraudulent liens she had put on his property in Oklahoma, and a premium statement addressed to **Patricia Thyer's** residence for a life insurance policy on David Thyer's life, of which he was unaware.

By pleading guilty today, **Patricia Thyer** also agreed to forfeit to the government \$1,400 that had been paid to the undercover officer.

Under federal statutes, **Patricia Thyer** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$500,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the South Central Missouri Drug Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Forest Service and the Wright County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow